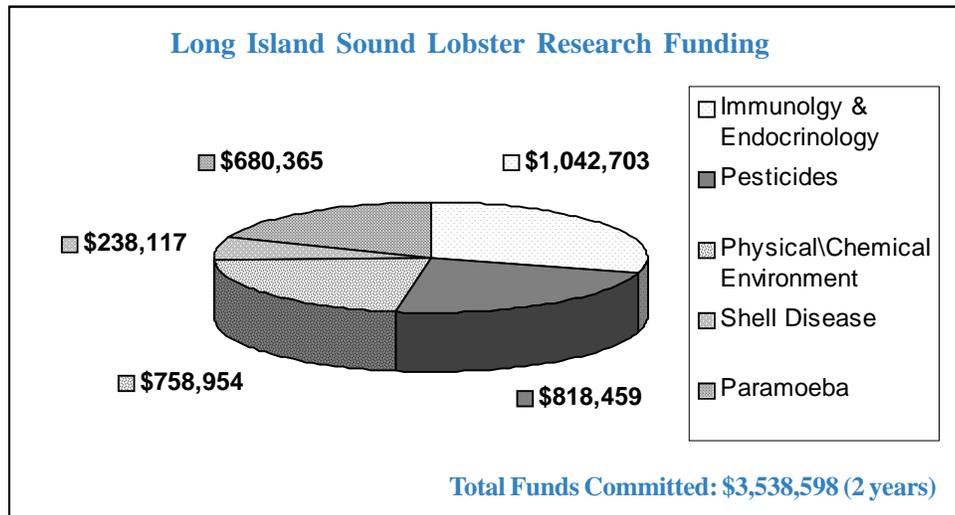


Long Island Sound Lobster Research Funding



The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) American Lobster Management Board established an *ad hoc* ASMFC Lobster Steering Committee in August 2000, for lobster disease research with members appointed by the Chair of the Lobster Management Board. The Committee is charged to (1) provide oversight and accountability for the expenditure of federal funds appropriated for research into the causes of Long Island Sound's lobster fishery disaster; (2) monitor research on lobster health and provide the Board with periodic reports on research results and determine the implications for the ASMFC American Lobster Management Program; and (3) recommend Board action/support for future lobster health research needs.

Seventeen research projects have been announced to date, and they will be implemented over the next two years to investigate the causes of the mass mortalities in Long Island Sound's lobster fishery, which occurred in fall 1999, and beyond. These projects constitute the *Long Island Sound Lobster Research Initiative*, a regional collaboration between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and the Sea Grant Programs in New York and Connecticut. Long Island Sound Lobster Research Initiative is complemented by the Monitoring and Resource Assessment Program by New York State Department of Environment Conservation and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection that began in 2000.

The projects were selected through an open competition under a joint Request for Proposals that was announced in October 2000 by the Sea Grant Programs in New York and Connecticut, and Connecticut Department



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Long Island Sound Lobster Research Funding

Related Fact Sheets

- **LIS Lobster Disaster Response**
- **LIS Lobster Research Funding**



Long Island Sound Lobster Research Initiative is a research collaboration of National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and the Sea Grant Programs in New York and Connecticut.



Bringing Science to the Shore

of Environmental Protection. This latest announcement means that over \$3.5 million have been committed to research to date, by the Sea Grant Programs in New York and Connecticut, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. Research will be conducted under the following focus areas:

Immunology & Endocrinology

Seek to determine how lobster immune systems may have been compromised or affected by environmental stressors, and how they defend against disease and infection. Researchers will also describe immune systems for healthy lobsters that can serve as a basis for comparison or a monitoring tool in future.

Pesticides

Estimate mortality rates in lobster resulting from pesticide levels that are known to occur in the environment, and the effects long-term exposure of these contaminants may have on lobster health, and other marine crustaceans including crabs and other invertebrates. These research will also quantify sub-lethal concentrations of toxic contaminants (pesticides) used for mosquito control, and determine how these chemicals are broken-down in seawater and sediments, and lobster tissues.

Physical\Chemical Environment

Examine how long-term changes in water quality variables (e.g., temperature, biogeochemical) affect lobster health. They will also consider how unfavorable environmental conditions including low Dissolved Oxygen and prolonged elevations in temperature, might cause lobster populations to be vulnerable to stress and mortality.

Shell Disease & Paramoeba

Study and examine bacteria that cause Shell Disease Syndrome, and develop tests for specific disease-causing agents. Another important activity will be to isolate and describe the paramoeba, and develop tests to aid in its detection in infected lobsters.

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